

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9448
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
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USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON POSSIBLE SUAREZ CANDIDACY

1. THE LIBERAL LEFT EL PAID CAME OUT MARCH 23 WITH AN
EDITORIAL AGAINST PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ TAKING PART IN THE
NEXT ELECTIONS, NOTING THAT THE ELECTORAL LAW MAKES HIM
ELIGIBLE, THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT NO LAW NOW ON THE
BOOKS, EVEN THE POLITICAL REFORM LAW, INTERFERESE WITH HIS
LEGAL RIGHT TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL JULY 1981: "THE
CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT IS NOT ANMED BY THE CORTES NOR IS
RESPONSIBLE TO IT, NEITHER IS HE REQUIRED TO BE A DEPUTY
OR SENATOR". EL PAIS ALSO DISCOUNT THE POSSIBLE MOTIVE
OF MEASURING HIS POPULARITY, SINCE POLLS "PROVE CONCLUSIVELY
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THAT MR. SUAREZ WOULD WIN A SEAT BY AN AMPLE MARGIN"

2. WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, IS THAT
SUAREZ HAS COME TO A CROSS ROADS AND DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER
TO REMAINS ABOVE THE ELECTORAL FRAY OR PLUNGE IN. MENTIONING
THAT SUCH PARTCIPATION WOULD CAUSE DOUBTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT
NEUTRALITY IN THE PROCESS, DESCARDING AS INAPPLICABLE

THE ARGUMENT THAT WESTERN GOVT LEADERS ROUTINELY TAKE PART
IN ELECTIONS, THE PAPER CALLS POSITIVE SUAREX ADMINISTRATION
TO DATE AND SAYS HE IS TRUSTED BECAUSE HE HAS KEPT HIS WORD

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INFLUENTIAL DAILY CONTUINES.
NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT HIS IDEOGOGY, AND IF HE RUNS, HE
MIGHT WELL BE BACKED AND JOINED BY A GRAB BAG OF DISPARATE
"INDEPENDENTS AND NOTABLES" WHOSE ONLY UNIFYING ELEMENT
WOULD BE PERSONAL LOYALTY TO HIM. IN TERMS OF LOCATION ON
THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, SUCH A GROUP COULD CREDIBLY NOT
FIT IN WITH THE SOICAL DEMOCRATS, AND REGARDING THE CENTER
IT WOULD DO BETTER TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE GROUPS ALREADY
ESTABLISHED THERE THAN TO DISLODGE THEM. FROM THE RIGHT
TYRER COMES THE DANGER THAT THE FORCES OF THE PAST WOULD BE
THE ELECTORS OF THE FORCES OF THE PRESENT. THIS, EL PAIS
CONCLUDED, WOULD UNDERCUT THE EFFECT OF THE ELECTIONS IN
MARKING AN END TO FRANCO ISM AND ESTABLISHING PLURALIST DEMOCRACY

4. IN A COLUMN THE SAME DAY, JOSE MARIA RUIZ GALLARDON, AN
AP LEADER AND LONG TIME POLITICAL COMMENTATOR FOR THE
CONSERVATIVE ABC, ALSO ARGUED AGAINST A SUAREZ CANDIDACY.
ACKNOWLEDGING SUAREZ LEGAL MADATE DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL
1981, RUIZ GALLARDON NOTED THAT BY SUAREZ OWN DEFINITION
OF HIS TASK, IS MORAL MADATE RUNS OUT ONCE ELECTIONS
HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. HE ALSO RECONGINIZED THAT A YOUNG
POLITICAL LEADER WOULD NATURALLY WNAT TO BE IN THE CORTES.
AND AS AN ELECTED MEMBER, SUAREX CANDICAY HOWEVER,
WARNED THE COLUMNIST WOULD CONFUSE RATHER THAN CLARIFY
THE ALREADY OVER POPULATED POLITICAL ARRAY, BLURRING
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LINE AND LOYALTIES IN THE RIGHT AND CENTER TO THE PUTATIVE
ADVANTAGE OF THE LEFT. RUIZ GALLARDON ALSO WANRED THAT A
SUAREZ CANDIDACY COULD NOT FAIRLY HAVE THE WEIGHT OF THE
CROWN BEHIND IT, NOR DERIVE ANY ADVANTAGE FROM HIS OFFICAL
POSITION.EATON

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